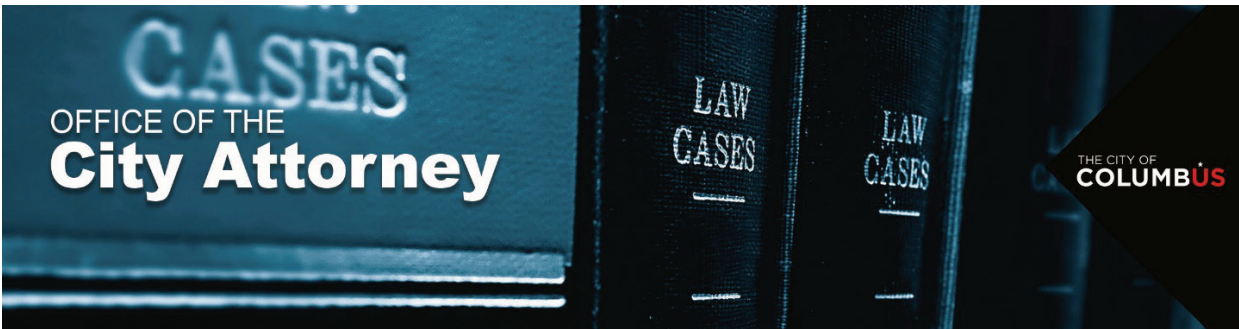




Department Description

The City Attorney is the legal adviser and attorney for all City of Columbus Departments. The Columbus City Attorney's Office (CAO) provides an array of legal services which include approving contracts, defending the city against lawsuits, assuring that newly enacted legislation conforms to existing city code, and evaluating whether misdemeanor criminal charges should be filed in Franklin County Municipal Court. The CAO prosecutes traffic and criminal cases, conducts new recruit and in-service training for the Division of Police, and eliminates public nuisances that persist in Columbus neighborhoods. Through the Solicitor General's position, the CAO engages in litigation that seeks to protect and ensure the well-being of Columbus residents.

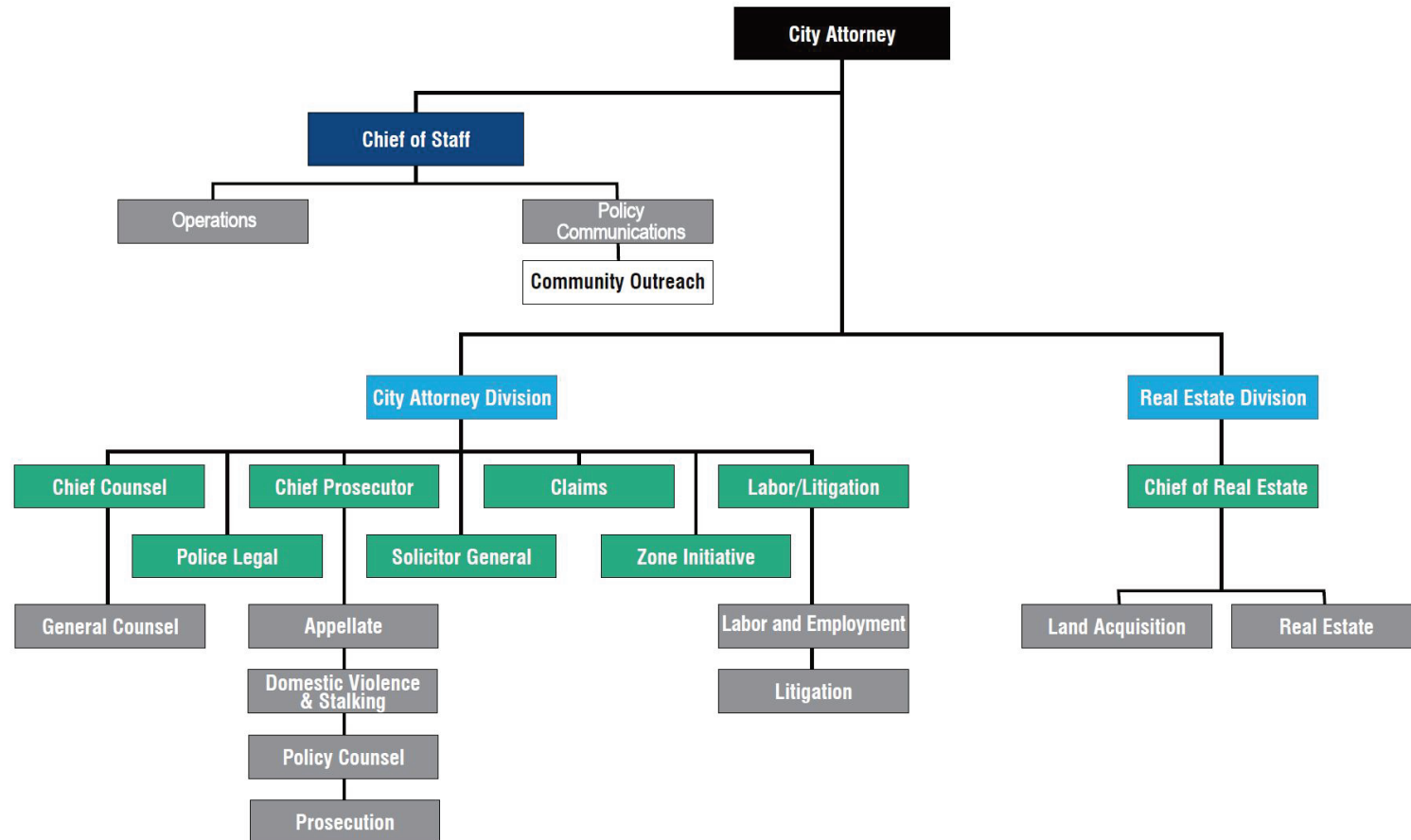
The Real Estate Division is responsible for the acquisition of all real property needed by the city departments, the provision of legal assistance with regard to all real estate matters, including the sale and leasing of property, and matters related to real estate taxes. The Real Estate Division provides legal and negotiating advice for a number of major projects contributing to Columbus's development.

Department Mission

To carry out the duties and responsibilities prescribed by the Columbus City Charter and Columbus City Codes as legal adviser, attorney, counsel, and prosecuting attorney in municipal court for the City of Columbus; to set the guiding principles for the legal and prosecutorial direction of the city's law department that focuses on ways to help improve the safety and progress of Columbus.

Budget Summary				
Fund	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
General Fund	13,641,296	13,534,638	13,736,910	13,607,962
Land Acquisition Fund	985,776	1,073,019	1,234,584	1,190,281
Department Total	\$ 14,627,072	\$ 14,607,657	\$ 14,971,494	\$ 14,798,243

City Attorney



Department Goals and Objectives

To handle every matter to a conclusion that is just and fair, both to the City of Columbus and to any other parties involved.

Strategic Priorities for 2021

Provide critical legal services across a broad spectrum of issues and ensure that enacted legislation fits properly into the City Code.

Evaluate whether criminal charges should be filed and prosecute criminal and traffic cases.

Conduct police recruit and in-service training, and eliminate public nuisances that persist in the city's neighborhoods.

Approve contracts, defend the city against lawsuits, and seek opportunities for the city to engage in affirmative litigation opportunities that threaten the well-being of Columbus residents.

Secure adequate resources for the best qualified attorneys and staff, for proper staffing levels, and for the law firm that represents the City of Columbus to carry out the responsibilities required by the charter in a competent and professional manner.

2021 BUDGET NOTES

- This year's budget supports a total of 137 full-time personnel and 13 part-time personnel.
 - The City Attorney's 2021 budget provides \$3.7 million in funding for its largest program area, Criminal Prosecution, which includes 41 full-time personnel.
 - In addition, the 2021 budget provides \$1.9 million for its second largest program, Domestic Violence and Stalking, including funding for 23 full-time personnel.
-

Financial Summary by Fund					
Fund	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed
General Fund					
City Attorney	\$ 13,508,467	\$ 13,390,639	\$ 13,581,589	\$ 13,477,821	\$ 13,440,669
Real Estate	132,829	143,999	155,321	166,527	167,293
General Fund Subtotal	13,641,296	13,534,638	13,736,910	13,644,348	13,607,962
Land Acquisition Fund					
Real Estate	985,776	1,073,019	1,234,584	1,140,475	1,190,281
Land Acq. Fund Subtotal	985,776	1,073,019	1,234,584	1,140,475	1,190,281
Department Total	\$ 14,627,072	\$ 14,607,657	\$ 14,971,494	\$ 14,784,823	\$ 14,798,243

Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Division	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed
City Attorney					
General Fund					
Personnel	\$ 12,866,826	\$ 12,763,746	\$ 13,083,077	\$ 12,951,375	\$ 12,944,547
Materials & Supplies	69,309	74,510	85,200	36,437	85,200
Services	410,691	402,636	410,312	385,420	407,922
Other	161,641	3,000	3,000	1,338	3,000
Transfers	-	146,747	-	103,251	-
City Attorney Subtotal	13,508,467	13,390,639	13,581,589	13,477,821	13,440,669
Real Estate					
General Fund					
Personnel	132,829	143,999	155,321	166,527	167,293
General Fund Subtotal	132,829	143,999	155,321	166,527	167,293
Land Acquisition Fund					
Personnel	916,535	989,154	1,082,653	1,037,354	1,033,876
Materials & Supplies	14,520	21,528	26,500	25,193	26,500
Services	54,722	60,336	123,431	75,928	127,905
Other	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Land Acquisition Fund Subtotal	985,776	1,073,019	1,234,584	1,140,475	1,190,281
Real Estate Subtotal	1,118,605	1,217,018	1,389,905	1,307,002	1,357,574
Department Total	\$ 14,627,072	\$ 14,607,657	\$ 14,971,494	\$ 14,784,823	\$ 14,798,243

Department Personnel Summary								
Fund	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Budget		2021 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
General Fund								
City Attorney	126	28	124	14	124	15	128	12
Real Estate	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Land Acquisition Fund								
Real Estate	8	1	8	1	9	1	8	1
Total	135	29	133	15	134	16	137	13

Please note: The equivalent of one City Attorney Division position in the 2019, 2020, 2021 columns above is funded by BZS' development services fund.

Operating Budget by Program				
Program	2020 Budget	2020 FTEs	2021 Proposed	2021 FTEs
Appellate	\$ 411,728	3	\$ 401,316	3
General Counsel	540,134	5	712,372	5
Labor & Employment	667,044	5	885,901	6
Police Legal Bureau	312,892	2	308,602	2
Claims	730,175	8	710,153	8
Zone Initiative	988,250	9	1,011,283	10
Criminal Prosecution	3,632,825	39	3,697,709	41
Prosecution Resource Unit	979,164	8	578,476	6
Domestic Violence & Stalking	1,884,900	22	1,878,554	23
Litigation	874,446	6	821,680	7
Solicitor General	265,200	2	347,445	2
Administration	1,866,770	12	1,681,168	12
Fiscal	257,193	3	216,740	2
Human Resources	111,064	1	119,496	1
Internal Services	151,168	0	160,733	0
Land Acquisition	1,143,220	8	1,099,322	8
Real Estate Administration	155,321	1	167,293	1
Department Total	\$ 14,971,494	134	\$ 14,798,243	137

For additional financial information related to the City Attorney, please refer to the land acquisition fund contained within the internal service funds summary. Program descriptions begin on the following page.



2021 PROGRAM GUIDE

APPELLATE

To manage appeals arising from the Prosecutor Section of the Columbus City Attorney's office. This unit also serves as legal advisors to the trial unit staff.

GENERAL COUNSEL

To serve as the primary legal counsel to city officials with respect to issues surrounding city services, legislation, contracts, zoning, and other vital issues related to the day-to-day operations of the city government. To assist in the legal review and practical implementation of various development projects that foster the growth of our city. To assist various city divisions in complying with state and federal environmental laws and regulations.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

To handle all labor and employment related litigation involving the city and render legal advice to city officials and managers on labor and employment matters involving the city's seven collective bargaining units.

POLICE LEGAL BUREAU

To provide comprehensive legal advice specifically to the Columbus Division of Police for a wide range of legal issues impacting police. Attorneys in this section deliver around the clock "real-time" advice to police personnel as they are on call 24/7. In addition, this section provides legal training to Division of Police recruits and to current officers.

CLAIMS

To handle pre-litigation claims against the city that exceed the sum of \$2,500, as well as the collection of delinquent debt owed to the city.

ZONE INITIATIVE

To work closely with the Division of Police, Code Enforcement, Columbus Public Health, Refuse and community organizations, focusing on the elimination of public nuisances that blight the city's neighborhoods. Whether it is abandoned and deteriorating houses, open dumping, street prostitution, boot joints, excessive noise, or trash and debris, this unit seeks to eliminate these problems.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

To provide attorneys in the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses in the Franklin County Court for the City of Columbus, the State of Ohio, the unincorporated areas of Franklin County and, under contract, for various municipalities.

**PROSECUTION RESOURCE
UNIT**

To oversee the operations of the Intake Section, the Mediation Program, and the Check Resolution Program. This unit provides a variety of services to residents seeking to resolve conflicts that may rise to the level of a misdemeanor criminal violation. The section offers residents the opportunity to have allegations of misdemeanor criminal violations reviewed by a prosecutor, works through mediation in an effort to resolve disputes without resorting to criminal prosecution, and seeks to resolve disputes where checks are dishonored without resorting to the filing of criminal charges.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &
STALKING**

To prosecute and provide education, support, counseling, crisis intervention, and overall assistance to victims of domestic violence (DV) and stalking. The section has specially trained prosecutors that are assigned to handle only domestic violence and stalking cases. These specialized prosecutors handle cases that include, but are not limited to, repeat assaults, egregious acts of violence, and victims that are high risk including the elderly, pregnant women, children, and the disabled. The team also includes legal advocates who offer services to every DV victim before and during each court date.

LITIGATION

To defend the city and its employees in all types of civil litigation. While litigation occurs in other sections of the office, the Litigation Section's caseload principally deals with claims against the city and its employees that seek monetary damages based on allegations of personal injury or property damage or violation of constitutional rights.

SOLICITOR GENERAL

To oversee complex appellate litigation on behalf of the city, advise City Council on legislative enactments, and serve as a legal policy advisor to the City Attorney primarily on issues of criminal justice reform. To develop an affirmative litigation section that initiates litigation on behalf of the City of Columbus.

ADMINISTRATION

To provide office management, administration, technology, and clerical support.

FISCAL

To provide accounts receivables, accounts payable, purchasing, grant management, and budgeting services for the office.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To provide payroll and human resources management services for the office.

INTERNAL SERVICES

To account for the internal service charges of the department necessary to maintain operations.

LAND ACQUISITION

To provide services for the acquisition of all real property interests needed by city departments.

**REAL ESTATE
ADMINISTRATION**

To provide legal assistance with regard to all real estate matters—including the sale and leasing of property—utility easements, right-of-way dedications, and matters related to real estate property taxes. The Real Estate Division also provides legal and negotiating advice for a number of major projects contributing to Columbus' development.